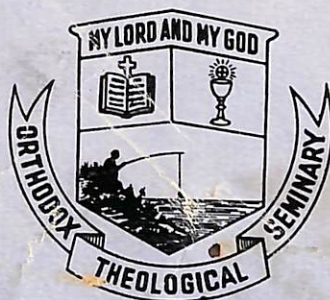


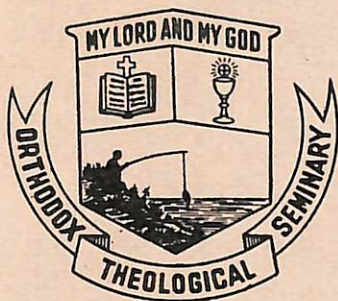
150 YEARS



ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY KOTTAYAM

1815-1965





150 YEARS JUBILEE SOUVENIR

DECEMBER — 1965



ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, KOTTAYAM

THE GOVERNING BOARD AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE GOVERNING BOARD

H. H. The Catholcos of the East	Chairman
H. G. Mathews Mar Athanasius	Vice-Chairman
H. G. Geevarghese Mar Gregorios	
H. G. Daniel Mar Philoxenos	
H. G. Abraham Mar Climis	
The Rev. Fr. Abraham Konatt	
The Rev. Fr. K. David	
The Rev. Fr. Jacob Manalil	
The Rev. Fr. N. A. Yohannan	
The Rev. Dr. K. Philipos	Secretary
Sri. K. M. Cherian	
Sri. Kurian Abraham	
Sri. M. Thommen	
Sri. P. C. Abraham	
Sri. C. J. Kurian	
Sri. M. C. Pothen	
Sri. K. O. Mathew	
Dr. J. Alexander	
Dr. Chacko George	

APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

H. G. Mathews Mar Athanasius
H. G. Daniel Mar Philoxenos
Rev. Fr. Abraham, Konatt
Rev. Dr. K. Philipos
Sri. M. Thommen

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

H. G. Mathews Mar Athanasius
H. G. Paulose Mar Philoxenos
The Rev. Fr. M. V. George
The Rev. Fr. N. A. Yohannan
The Rev. Dr. K. Philipos
The Rev. Dr. C. T. Eapen

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

H. G. Mathews Mar Athanasius	Principal
The Rev. Dr. K. Philipos	Vice-Principal
Mr. Kurian Abraham, the Lay Trustee of the Church	Treasurer
Sri. C. J. Kurian	
Sri. M. Chacko Pillai	
Sri. P. C. Abraham	

A CORDIAL WELCOME TO THE JUBILEE

ST. PAUL'S exhortation, "rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep", is seen in its deeper meaning by Christians around the world to-day as the inevitable expression of the Churches' solidarity with each other and with the whole world due to the primary solidarity of humanity to the triune God by virtue of creation and redemption through Jesus Christ, the cosmic Saviour. As St. John Chrysostom has wisely put it, it is more difficult to rejoice with those who rejoice than to weep with those who weep. Viewing from that angle, it is a matter of great joy to us that we have innumerable friends around the world who share in our immeasurable joy at this one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of this Pioneer Educational Institution in Kerala. While praising God from whom all mercies flow, we also pray for the heroes of faith who have endured untold hardships to make this happy moment possible for us and the many gone to glory and sharing in spirit the felicity of this occasion.

The Syrian Orthodox Church is standing at the Cross-roads and may this Jubilee be recorded by historians as the beginning of a new era of progress and fruitful service in the realms of worship, witness and service, wherever the members of this ancient Church happen to be and will be called to work. It is more than a coincidence that the Jubilee Year has synchronized with the inauguration of the

B. D. College in this Old Seminary and we can rightly see the providential hand of God guiding this Church from lethargy to glorious service in its chequered history.

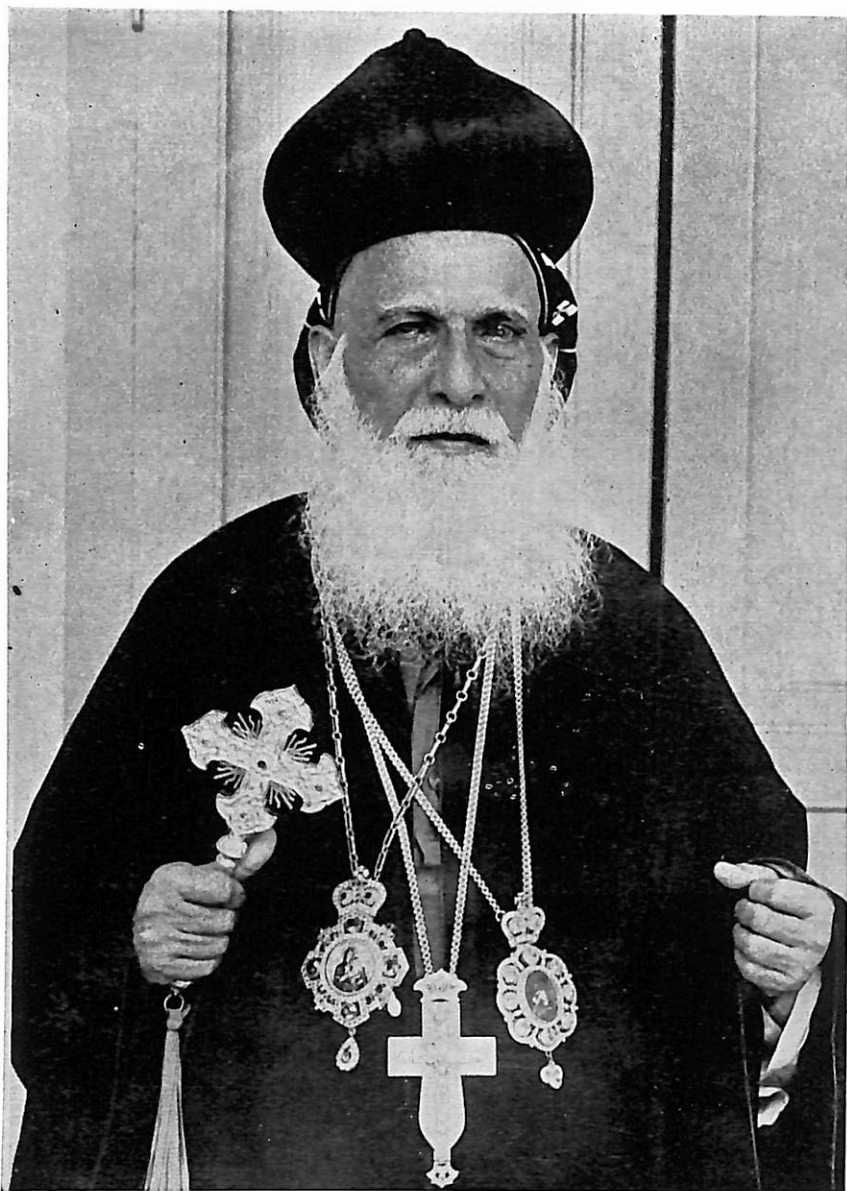
While we extend a hearty welcome to all the participants in this Jubilee celebrations, may we be permitted to extend a special welcome to the honoured Guests from Churches in Europe, Middle East and all countries outside India. They have come here at considerable sacrifice on their part and we would like them to carry with them our warmest affection and heartfelt greetings to the churches and countries they represent. In this age of ecumenism, we look forward to closer co-operation, not only with the Oriental and Byzantic Orthodox Churches, but also with all Churches that our Lords prayer "that they may all be one" is fulfilled. India, with its rich religious heritage and out-stretched arms of hospitality, naturally joins us in extending this cordial welcome to all our friends abroad.

May we continue to intercede for each other with greater devotion than ever before, and work together for the salvation of the whole world, international brotherhood, Christian Solidarity and the glory of God. *Maranatha.*





H. H. MORAN MAR IGNATIUS YAKUB III
Patriarch of Antioch and all the East



H. H. MORAN MAR AUGEN I
Catholicos of the East



H. H. MORAN MAR BASELIUS GEEVARGHESE II
The Late Catholicos



H. G. GEEVARGHESE MAR DIONYSIUS
(Vattasseril)



H. G. MAR GREGORIOS OF PARUMALA



H. G. MATHEWS MAR ATHANASIOUS
Principal



The Tomb of the founder
H. G. Puliccottil Joseph Mar Dionysius II



The Tomb of
H. G. Vattasseril Geevarghese Mar Dionysius



The Tomb of
H. G. Puliccottil Joseph Mar Dionysius V

JUBILEE OF THE ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

THE starting of the SYRIAN ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, Kottayam, popularly known as the Old Seminary, marks the dawn of English education in Kerala. One hundred and fifty years ago, before the Government of Travancore or any other private agencies entered the field of English education, Pulicottil Joseph Remban (also known as Uttoop Remban), laid the Foundation Stone of the Seminary on 18th February, 1813, and the building was completed and dedicated in March, 1815. Classes began in the same year and the institution became the nerve centre of a net work of primary schools in 72 village parish churches.

This Seminary owes its birth and development to the vision and perseverance of Joseph Remban who became Metropolitan soon after the Seminary was started. As Metropolitan, he could rule only for one year. But he was able to enlist the co-operation and assistance of Colonel Monroe, famous in Travancore history as the British

Resident of the period. Col. Monroe took a deep interest in the ancient Syrian Church in Malankara and his influence and support went a great deal to help the Seminary to go forward. The munificent grant of sixteen acres of tax free land to the Seminary



COLONEL MONROE

by the Travancore Government was an indication of the interest which Colonel Monroe and the Government of the State evinced in this budding educational venture.

The beginning of the Old Seminary synchronised with the advent of the C. M. S.

Missionaries to Kerala. For some years the relationship between the Missionaries and the church was one of cordiality and co-operation. C. M. S. Missionaries joined the staff of the Seminary. Mr. NORTON was the earliest to join the Faculty. His headquarters



NORTON

was in Alleppey and he had to make frequent trips to Kottayam to take his classes in the Seminary. Later three more arrived from England who became famous as the Trio of the earliest C. M. S. Mission here — BAKER, BAILEY,



HENRY BAKER



BENJAMIN BAILEY

FENN. Four years after the classes were started in the Old Seminary Fenn became the principal. The Seminary was intended for giving instruction to the prospective candidates for



JOSEPH FENN

priesthood in the church. But others also were entertained as students as the curriculum included the basis of general education. Pupils could study English, Greek, Hebrew, Sanscrit, Latin, Malayalam and Syriac.

The Church Historian Hugh was pleased with the institution. After visiting it he wrote in his "History of Christianity" thus. "The college increases daily in importance. There I trust will be kindled the flames of piety which shall diffuse light and heat not only through Travancore but the whole of the Southern Peninsula". (Vol. V Page 375)

RANI PARWATI BHAJ of the Royal House



RANI PARWATI BHAJ

of Travancore donating a gift to the Seminary expressed the hope that some of the graduates of the Seminary would enter the civil services of the state. Care was taken therefore not to limit the instructions to theological subjects only. The seminary was the earliest seat of general education in the state and perhaps one of the earliest in the whole of India.

The co-operation of the C. M. S. missionaries continued until 1836. Then differences arose between the church and the missionaries which unfortunately gave rise to disputes and litigation. The Seminary had to be closed for a short period after the Missionaries moved to the hill which now comprises the C. M. S. College, Kottayam.

The Seminary since then had a chequered career. It became the headquarters of the Malankara Metropolitan, the chief prelate of the Orthodox Syrian Church in Malabar. The academic importance of the Old Seminary was thus thrown into the background. For a very long time it continued to be the centre of church administration. The disputes with the Mar Thoma Church and later the internal quarrels between what were known as the Patriarch side and Catholicos side, engaged the main attention of the church. The Old Seminary terminated all the classes in general education. But Theological Training for priesthood continued under Syriac Malpans (Teachers) having spells of disorganisation and dormancy.

It was again in 1942 that the Old Seminary came to its own with a systematised course of training. Since then the institution saw a period of development. A new generation of qualified theological professors took the responsibility of running the Seminary on modern lines. That paid its dividend in having trained priests and deacons with vision and vitality serving in different parts of the church in and outside Kerala. The Seminary was recently upgraded and got itself affiliated to the Serampore University

for its B. D. Degree Courses and G. S. T. diplomas. The headquarters of H. H. The Catholicos moved to Devalokam Palace in 1952.

Some of the eminent personalities of Syrian Church history were closely associated with the teaching in the Seminary. Of them mention may be made of the following:- Mar Gregorios of Parumala, Mar Dionysius of Vattasseril, Malankara Malpan Mathan Cor-episcopa of Konat, Father Scariah Cheriamadhathil, Malpan Scariah of Elavina-mannil, Father Alexandrios of Mattakal, Baselios Geevarghese II, Catholicos

It is interesting to remember that the first printing press in South India was installed by Benjamin Bailey in the Old Seminary in 1820. It could undertake printing in Malayalam, Syriac and English. Mostly religious and ecclesiastical books were printed here.

The chapel of the Old Seminary is the abode of the mortal remains of three Metropolitans who ruled Malankara. They are Joseph Mar Dionysius, the founder, Mar Dionysius IV and Mar Dionysius V.

The curriculum of studies includes all subjects for the B. D. course as well as other subjects specially important for the Orthodox Syrian Church.

The Present Faculty

H. G. Mathews Mar Athanasius Principal
Rev. Fr. K. Philipos Vice-Principal
Rev. Fr. M. V. George
Rev. Fr. T. J. Joshua
Rev. Fr. K. M. Alexander
Rev. Fr. N. A. Yohannan, Malpan
Rev. Fr. N. K. Koruthu, Malpan
Dn. K. A. George
Shri. V. K. Abraham

The present Seminary with its modest facilities for just thirty or thirty five students is quite inadequate for a church with over a million adherents. To meet the normal requirement of the ministry at least twenty

candidates have to pass out every year. The church is expanding and the figure of twenty will soon be insufficient. The Seminary, is therefore, planning for faculties to meet these growing requiremets. Building expansion plans are prepared for a student body of 100 in five year ordination courses. Its total cost is estimated at 10 Lakhs of rupees

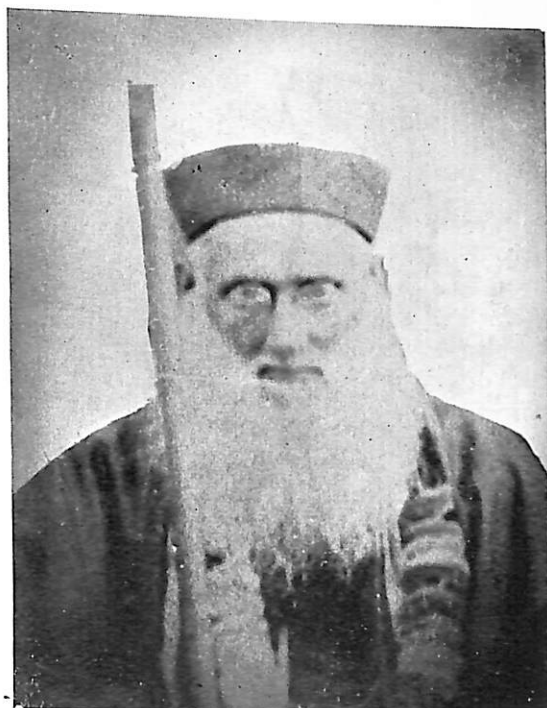
including the expansion of the present library. The present Jubilee is also witnessing the foundation of a new era of expansion for the Seminary. We hope and pray that the ground breaking ceremony of the Jubilee Building is ushering in a period of development which has been long delayed owing to various factors.



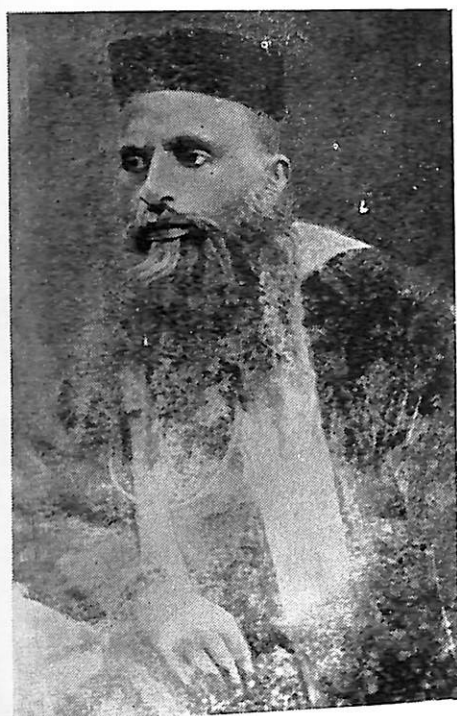
candidates have to pass out every year. The church is expanding and the figure of twenty will soon be insufficient. The Seminary, is therefore, planning for faculties to meet these growing requiremets. Building expansion plans are prepared for a student body of 100 in five year ordination courses. Its total cost is estimated at 10 Lakhs of rupees

including the expansion of the present library. The present Jubilee is also witnessing the foundation of a new era of expansion for the Seminary. We hope and pray that the ground breaking ceremony of the Jubilee Building is ushering in a period of development which has been long delayed owing to various factors.





Very Rev. Mathan Konat, Cor-episcopa
Malankara Malpan



Rev. Fr. Alexandrios, Mattackal



Rev. Fr. Skariah Cheriamadhathil



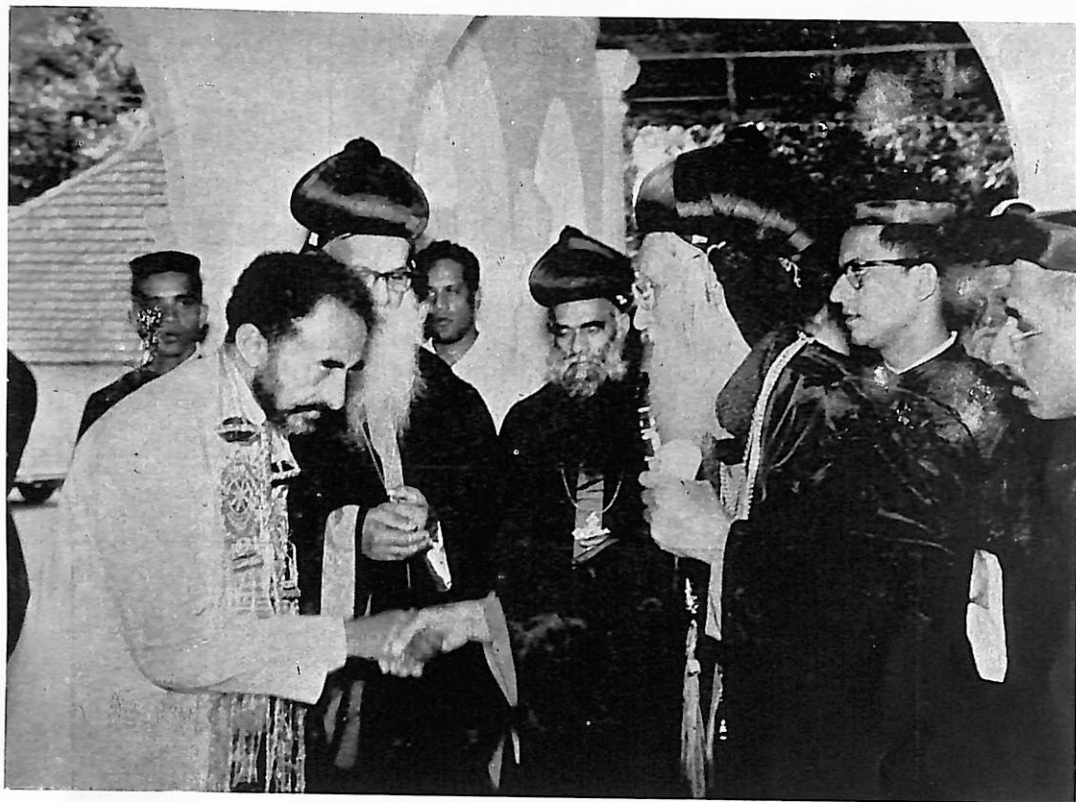
His Holiness Baselius Geevarghese II
with the Faculty and students of 1937—'38



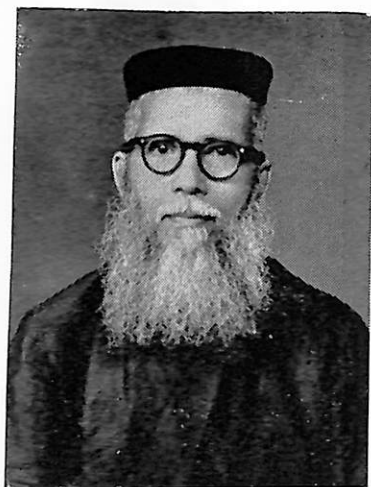
The present Catholicos with the Faculty and Students of 1946—'47



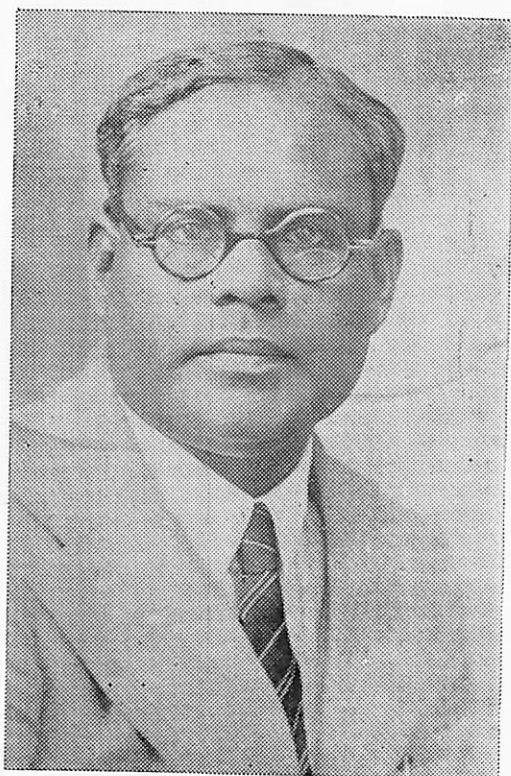
The present Catholicos with the Faculty and Students of 1949—'50



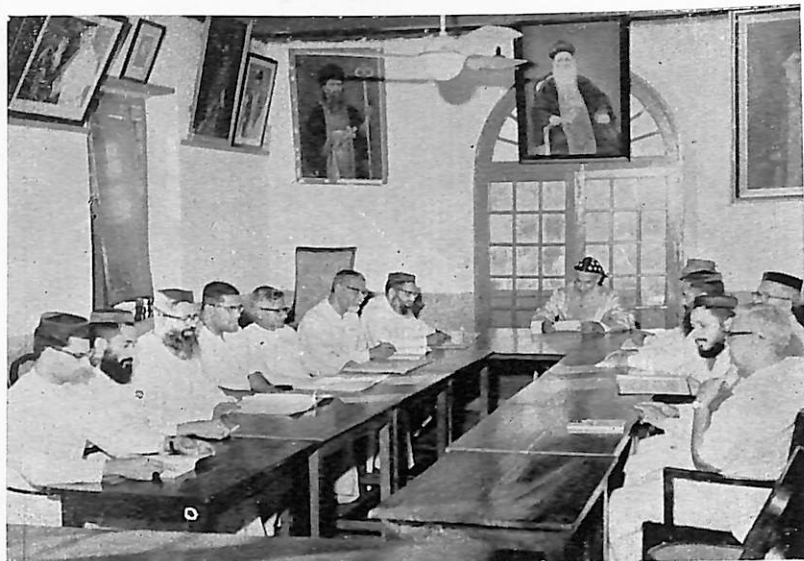
His Majesty Hailie Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia at the Seminary



Fr. K. David, Principal 1942



Sri. A. M. Varki, Visiting Professor—1942-'44



The Governing Body Meeting on 17th December, 1965



Faculty and Students at Worship



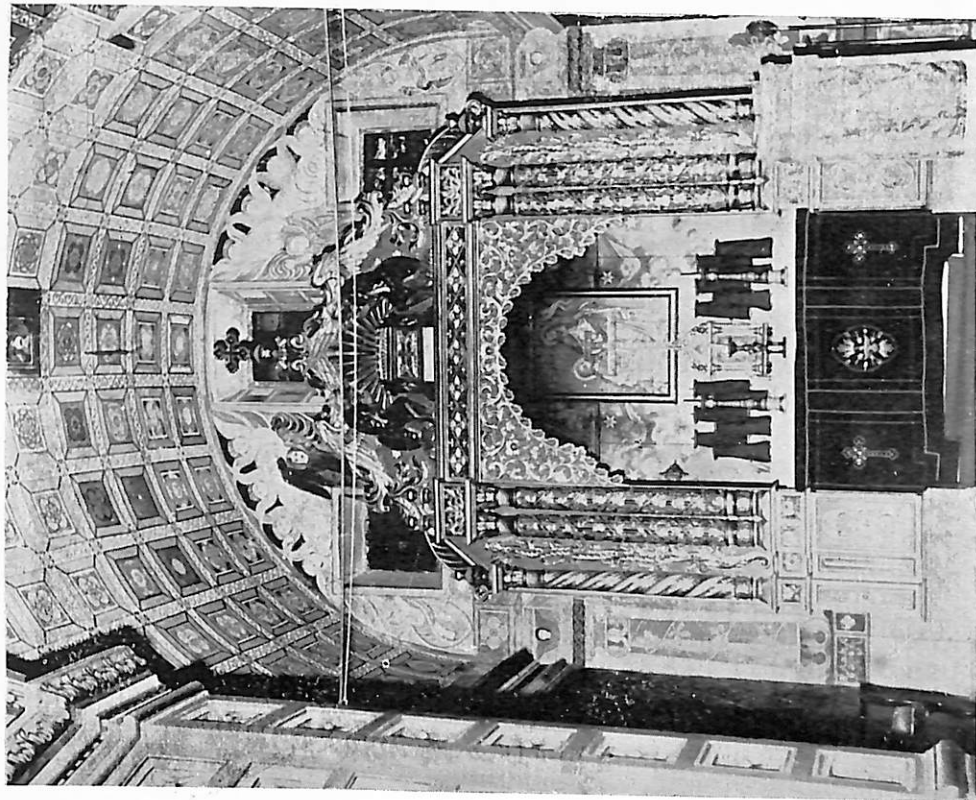
Seminary at Worship — Reading of the Gospel



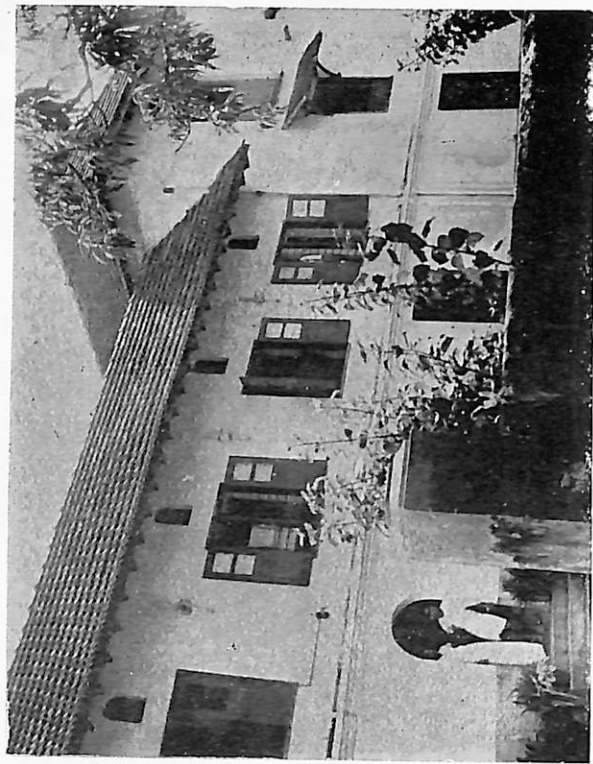
The present Faculty of the Theological Seminary



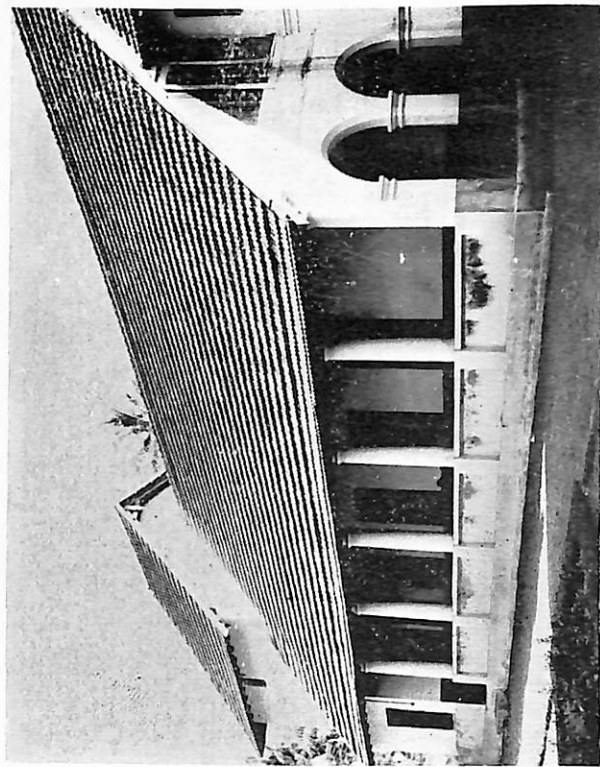
The present students with Faculty



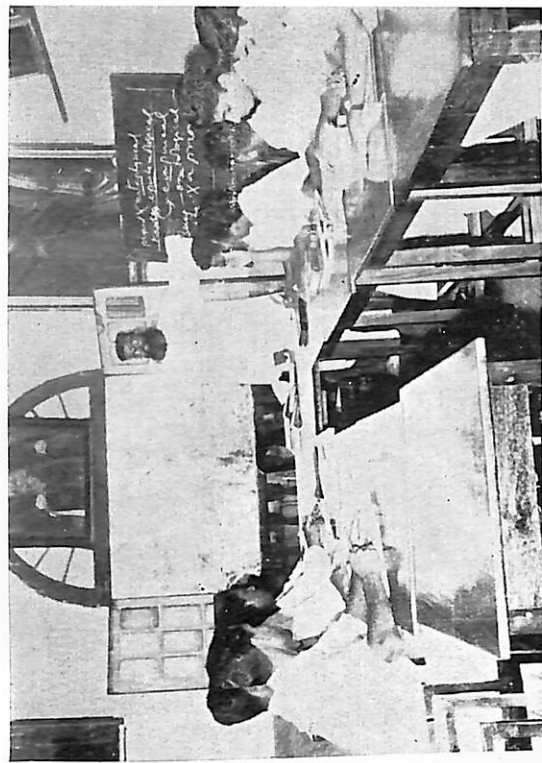
Sanctuary and the Central Altar of the Seminary Chapel



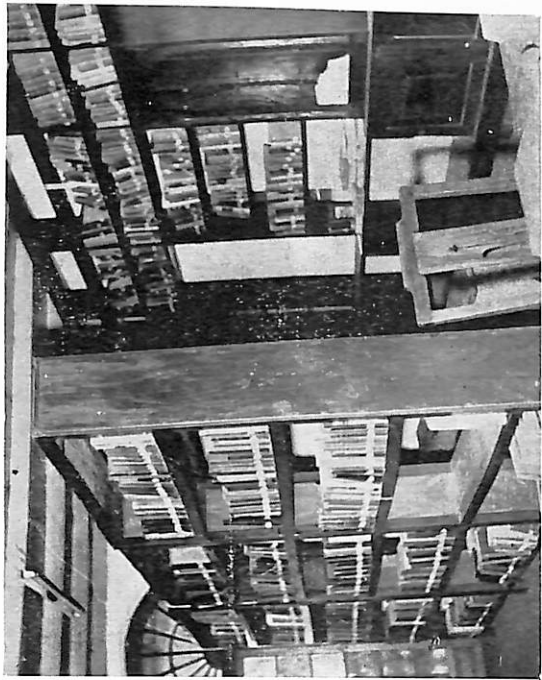
The Seminary Buildings



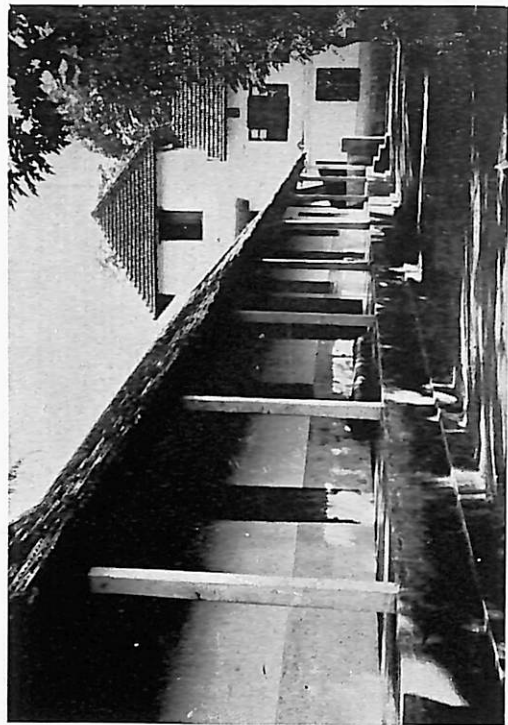
A view of the Chapel



A class in session



A view of the Library



Our Refectory

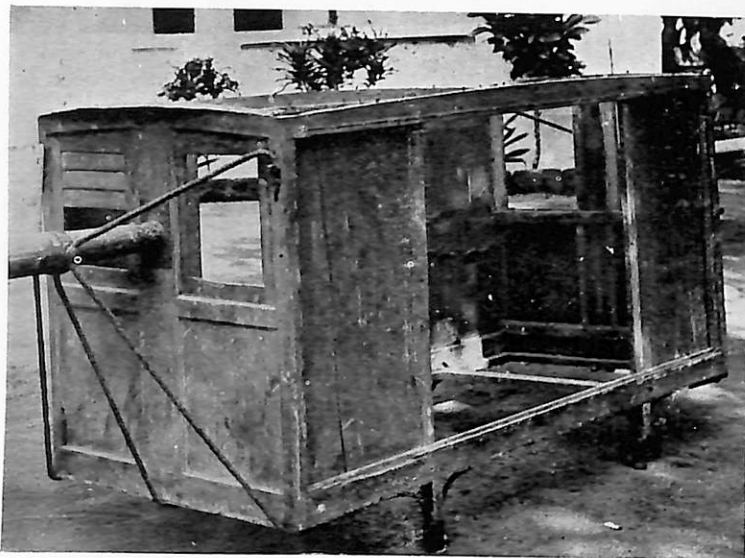


They prepare food for us

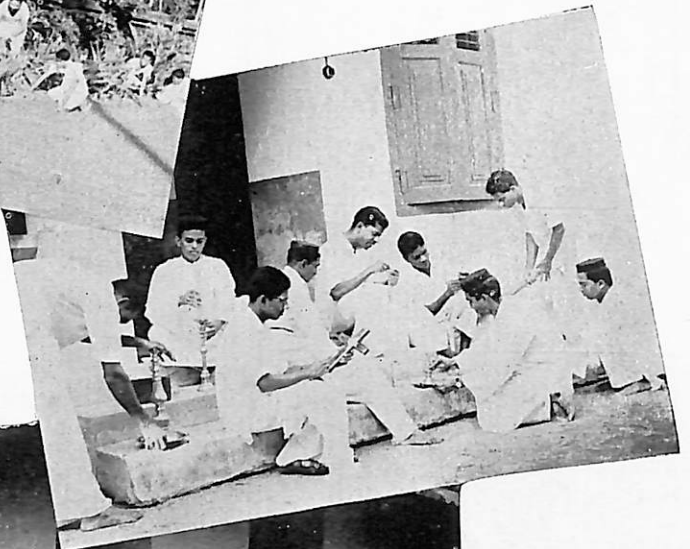
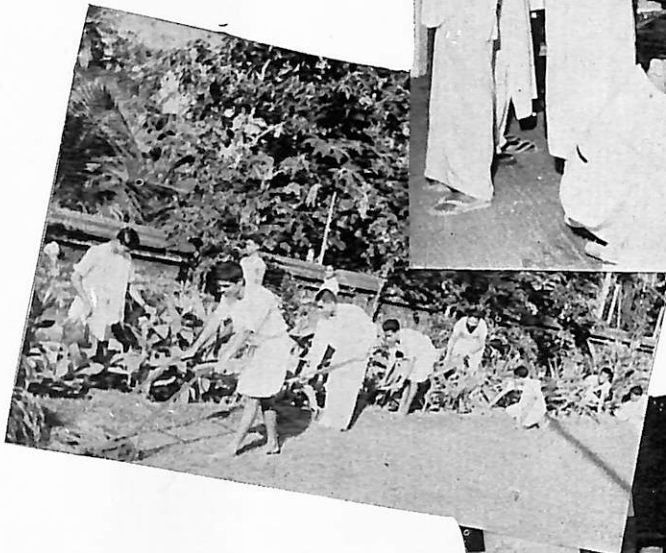


Front view of the Seminary

Side view of the Seminary

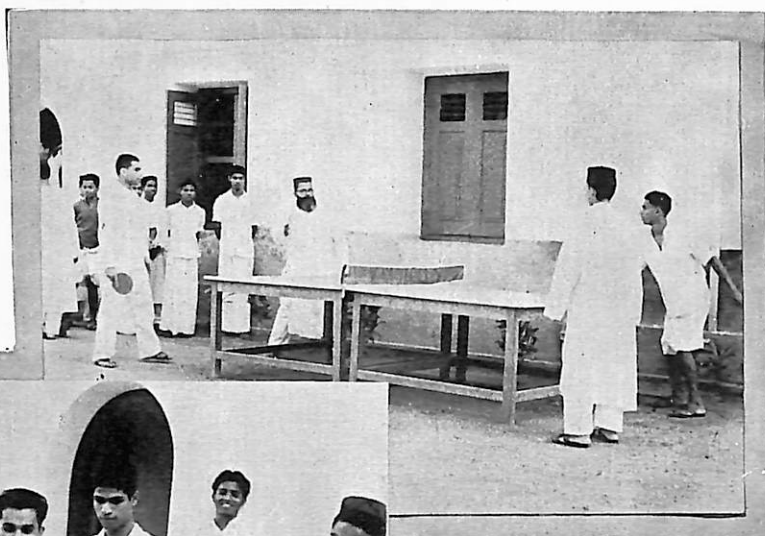


The remains of a Palanquin which was used as a conveyance for Bishops in ancient times.

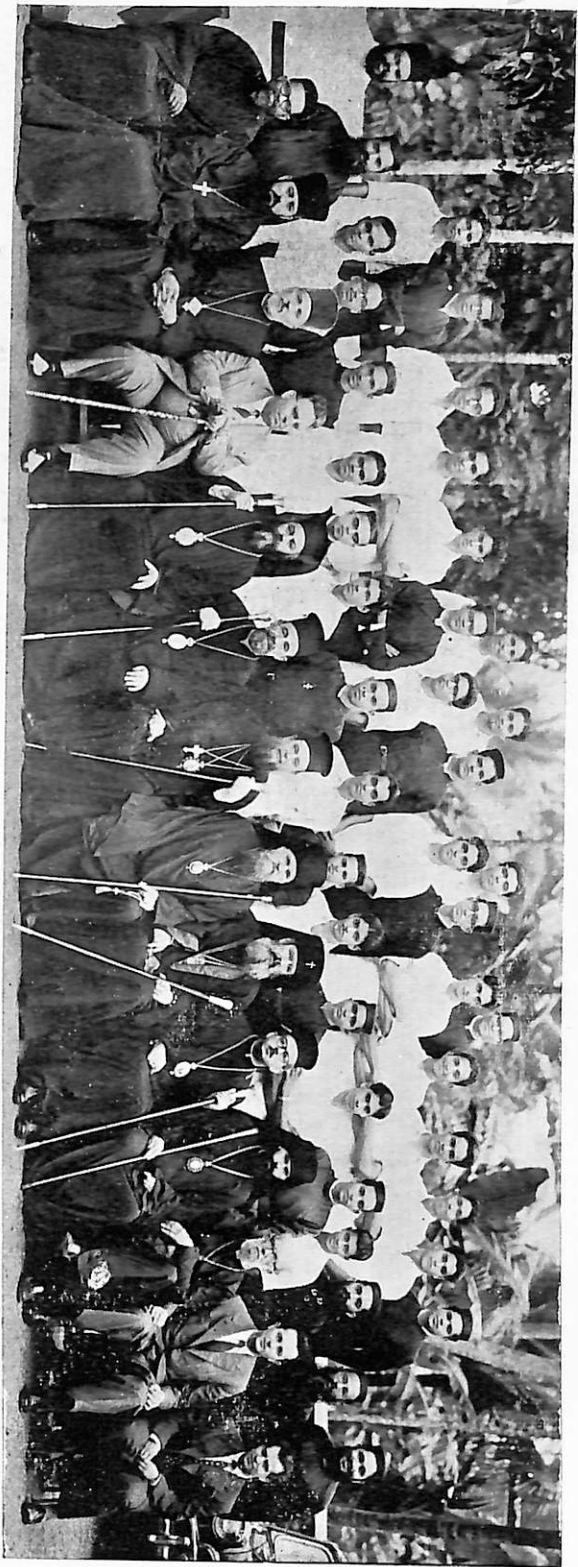


SQUADS AT WORK

From Top:- Library Squad, Garden Squad, Chapel Squad and Sanitation Squad



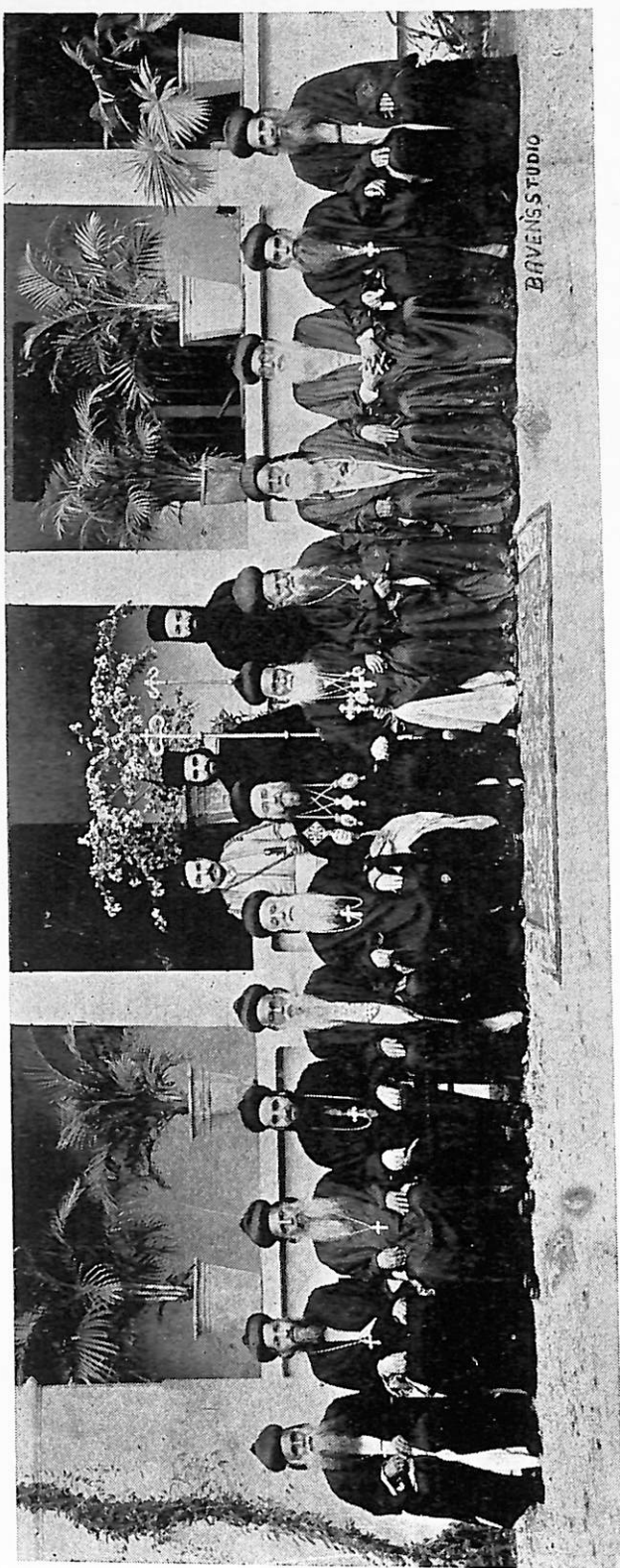
AT PLAY



The Orthodox Delegates to the New Delhi W. C. C. Assembly at the Seminary — 1961



H. H. VASCAN I, Supreme Catholics of All Armenians at the Seminary — 1963



The Patriarch, The Catholicos and the Bishops

The Old and the New

THE plan of the building seen on the front cover page is symbolic of the old with all its cherished values and the new with bright hopes for the future. The structure in the centre is the present Old Seminary building which was constructed 150 years ago and recently renovated.

The two 'L' shaped additions on either side will have living accommodation for one hundred students as well as the Library, Lecture Halls, Auditorium, Staff Quarters, Refectory etc. and it will cost about Rs. 12 lakhs. We are hoping that a good part of this will come as gift from the W. C. C. Inter-Church aid department, provided that we also raise a matching contribution of at least 4 lakhs. We trust that this will be forthcoming and that our building project will be completed in two or three years. With this hope and trusting in God we plan to have the ground breaking for the new building on Dec. 30, immediately after the service of thanksgiving.

Though there are half a dozen B. D. Colleges in India, ours is the only College which does not depend on any sort of foreign aid for its day-to-day running. Seminary is constantly supported by the Church. Various sources have to be tapped further so that every member of the Church contributes at least a token amount to this central institution of the Church. The rubber plantation on the Seminary Campus will begin to yield a profit after two more years and that will meet a part of the additional expenses that will be involved with the admission of more students.

The Managing Committee of the Church has authorised the Governing Board of the Seminary to go ahead with the construction programme and the latter has appointed a Building Committee with Mr. Kurian Abraham, Uppoottil, Kottayam, Kerala as the Treasurer. It is calculated that twenty graduates must come out of the Seminary every year to meet the normal need of priests for this Church and with the sudden growth of the Diocese outside Kerala, the need is much greater. Time demands that the clergy is not only thoroughly consecrated, but also academically qualified. All the anticipated progress of the Orthodox Church in India depends upon the leadership it produces and so the Church will grow only in proportion to the growth of the Seminary. We look forward to the future with hope and optimism and seek the prayers and support of all far and near in the accomplishment of our goal.



ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
KOTTAYAM, KERALA, INDIA.
(PHONE: 3526)